

Coordinating Center Report

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Abstract

This report summarizes the activities of the IVS Coordinating Center during the year 2009 and forecasts activities planned for the year 2010.

1. Coordinating Center Operation

The IVS Coordinating Center is based at the Goddard Space Flight Center and is operated by NEOS (National Earth Orientation Service), a joint effort for VLBI by the U.S. Naval Observatory and the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center.

The mission of the Coordinating Center is to provide communications and information for the IVS community and the greater scientific community and to coordinate the day-to-day and long-term activities of IVS.

The Web server for the Coordinating Center is provided by Goddard. The address is

<http://ivscc.gsfc.nasa.gov>

2. Activities during 2009

During the period from January through December 2009, the Coordinating Center supported the following IVS activities:

- Directing Board support: Coordinated, with local committees, two IVS Directing Board meetings, in Bordeaux, France (March 2009) and Buenos Aires, Argentina (August 2009). Notes from each meeting were published on the IVS Web site.
- Communications support: Maintained the Web pages, e-mail lists, and Web-based mail archive files. Generated analysis reports and included them into the 24-hour session Web pages. Maintained Intensive session Web pages.
- Publications: Published the 2008 Annual Report in spring/summer 2009. Published three editions of the IVS Newsletter in April, August, and December, 2009. All publications are available electronically as well as in print form.
- 2009 Master Schedule: Generated and maintained the master observing schedule for 2009. Coordinated VLBI resources for observing time, correlator usage, and disk modules. Coordinated the usage of Mark 5 systems at IVS stations and efficient deployment of disk modules. Coordinated the Very Large Astrometry Session in support of the International Year of Astronomy 2009 (IYA09).
- 2010 Master Schedule: Generated the proposed master schedule for 2010 and received approval from the Observing Program Committee.
- Meetings: Coordinated, with the Local Committee, the fifth IVS Technical Operations Workshop, held at Haystack Observatory in April 2009. Chaired the Program Committee for the meeting. Coordinated, with the Local Committee, the sixth IVS General Meeting, to be held

in Hobart, Tasmania, Australia in February 2010. Chaired the Program Committee for the meeting.

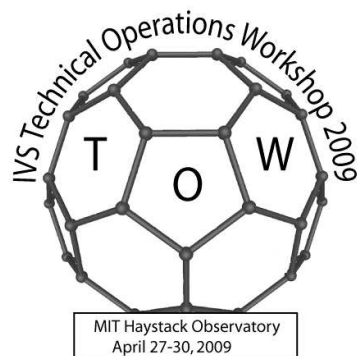


Figure 1. Logo of the fifth IVS Technical Operations Workshop held at Haystack Observatory in April 2009. More information about the workshop can be found at <http://ivscg.gsfc.nasa.gov/meetings/tow2009/>.

- Observing Program Committee (OPC): Coordinated meetings of the OPC to monitor the observing program, review problems and issues, and discuss changes.
- VLBI2010 Committee (V2C): Participated in the work of the V2C. Co-edited and published the Progress Report of the V2C as a NASA Technical Memorandum with the title “Design Aspects of the VLBI2010 System”.



Figure 2. The cover design of the Progress Report of the V2C, which was published as NASA Technical Memorandum TM-2009-214180 in June 2009. An online version of the report is available at <ftp://ivscg.gsfc.nasa.gov/pub/misc/V2C/TM-2009-214180.pdf>.

3. Tenth Anniversary Celebration

On March 1, 2009 the IVS completed its first decade of being a service for geodetic and astrometric VLBI. For that, a special event was held on March 25, 2009 in Bordeaux, France to celebrate the 10th Anniversary. The Coordinating Center was involved in organizing the program of a commemorative symposium and assisted the local organizers from Bordeaux Observatory, who did an excellent job of making the whole event a very memorable one, with the logistical arrangements. The symposium was held in the Salle Agora of Université Bordeaux 1. This chapel-converted-to-ballroom gave the event the proper ambience. The event was broadcast live over the Internet. A recording of the various presentations is available at <http://canalc2.u-strasbg.fr/video.asp?idvideo=8558>. Pictures are available at the URL <http://www.u-bordeaux1.fr/vlbi2009>.



Figure 3. Participants at the festivities for the IVS 10th Anniversary in Bordeaux, France.

4. IYA09 Astrometry Session

The Coordinating Center coordinated the Very Large Astrometry Session IYA09 as an activity for the International Year of Astronomy 2009. A call for participation was prepared and distributed, resulting in a positive response from 25 stations. Following feasibility discussions with the VLBA, the Coordinating Center submitted a “Target of Opportunity” proposal to the VLBA, and it was accepted. Hence, the total number of IYA09 stations rose to 35. The overall observational network is shown in Figure 4.

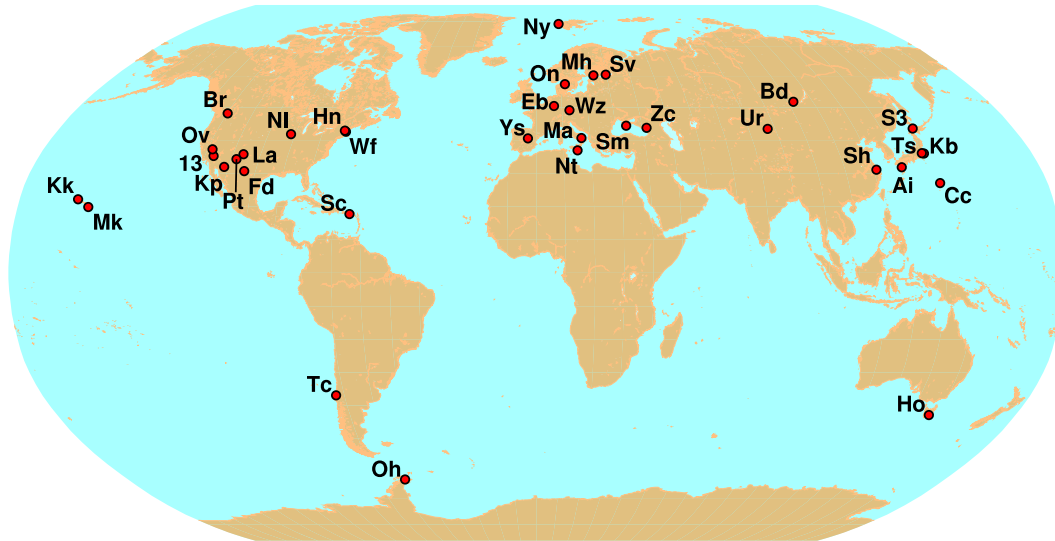


Figure 4. Observational network of the IYA09 Very Large Astrometry Session. From the original 35-station network, Svetloe had to drop out due to mechanical problems. DSS13 had a problem with one of the two X-band channels during the observations; it is likely that it will have to be dropped during the correlation.

The Coordinating Center supported the Task Force for the IYA09, which was established by the IVS Directing Board at its 20th meeting in Penticton, BC, Canada in September 2008. The task force consisted of Patrick Charlot (chair), Dirk Behrend (co-chair), Axel Nothnagel, Hayo Hase, and Oleg Titov. The scientific and outreach goals of the IYA09 session were determined to be the following:

- Scientific goals:
 - strengthen the ICRF2 by observing as many ICRF2 defining sources as possible in one single session (ultimately 243 out of 295);
 - provide the arc lengths between all sources without relying on source overlaps.
- Outreach activities:
 - press releases through the IYA2009 organization (AGU), IVS, and other organizations;
 - news coverage in regional and national media;
 - open doors at stations;
 - real time broadcast of the progress of the session via the Internet.

On the IVS Web site a dedicated Web page (<http://ivscc.gsfc.nasa.gov/program/iya09/>) serves as a repository of information for the IYA09 session. In addition, Bordeaux Observatory developed a dynamic Web page where the interested user could observe the progress of the IYA09 session in real time. Figure 5 shows a snapshot of the Web page taken during the observation of the session.

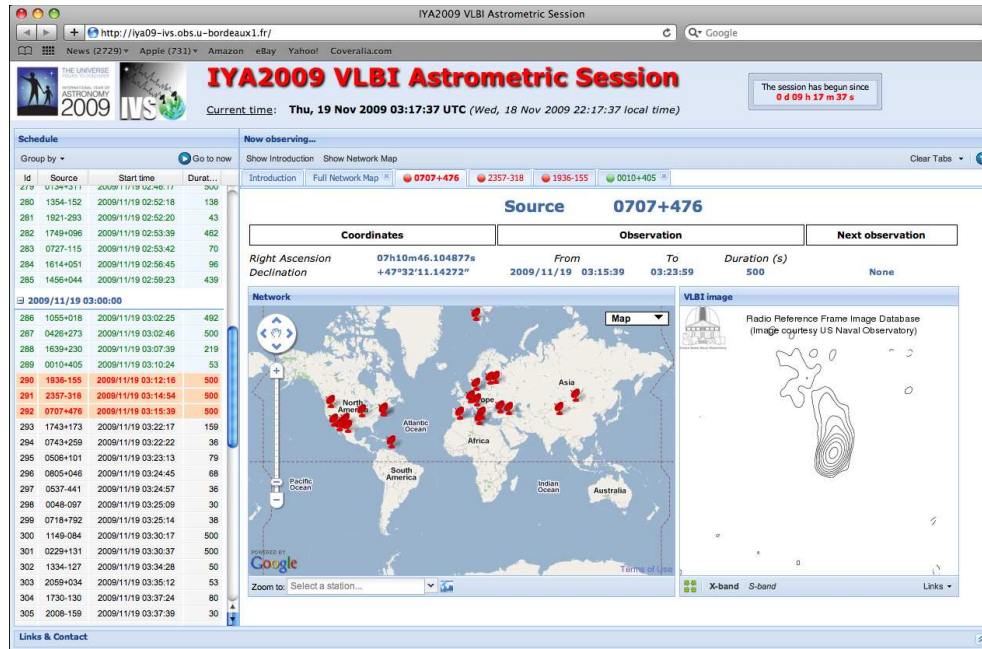


Figure 5. Snapshot of the dynamical Web page hosted at Bordeaux Observatory and taken during the observation of the IYA09 session. The Web page depicts the observational network of a particular scan and an image of the observed radio source. Further links led to information about the stations and station Webcams.

5. Staff

The staff of the Coordinating Center is drawn from individuals who work at Goddard. The staff and their responsibilities are listed in Table 1.

Table 1. IVS Coordinating Center staff.

Name	Title	Responsibilities
Dirk Behrend	Director	Web site and e-mail system maintenance, Directing Board support, meetings, publications, session Web page monitoring
Cynthia Thomas	Operation Manager	Master schedules (current year), resource management and monitoring, meeting and travel support, special sessions
Frank Gomez	Web Manager	Web server administration, mail system maintenance, data center support, session processing scripts, mirror site liaison
Karen Baver	General Programmer and Editor	Publication processing programs, LaTeX support and editing, session Web page support and scripts

6. Plans for 2010

The Coordinating Center plans for 2010 include the following:

- Maintain IVS Web site and e-mail system.
- Publish the 2009 Annual Report (this volume).
- Coordinate, with the local committee, the sixth IVS General Meeting to be held in Hobart, Tasmania, Australia in February 2010.
- Publish the 2010 General Meeting Proceedings.
- Support Directing Board meetings in 2010.
- Coordinate the 2010 master observing schedules and IVS resources.
- Publish Newsletter issues in April, August, and December.